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Extracurriculars, sports left in state of limbo

DARREN LUM
 Staff Reporter

Teachers, parents and students are disappointed by Trillium Lakelands District School Board's decision to cancel all extracurricular activities during school hours at secondary schools.

TLDSB director of education Larry Hope said this decision was made by the board at its Jan. 28 meeting as a result of strike action by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, which moved to not allow teachers to cover for absent teachers.

"We know this is unpopular, as it has resulted in teachers not being released from their teaching duties to participate with students in league play or tournament events during the instructional day. We did not take this decision lightly and are aware that this is not an ideal situation. It is important to note, however, that our decision was made with the goal of protecting classroom programming to the fullest extent possible. For us, this means we want to make use of the limited number of secondary supply teachers to support classroom programming first and foremost," he wrote.

The decision does not affect any extracurricular activity or event occurring after school hours.

OSSTF district 15 representative Colin Matthew was disappointed by the board's decision.

A press release from the teachers' union states: "The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) is

see KDAA page 2



Musicians dedicate performances to Farrell

Albert Saxby opened the first half of Homemade Stew on Feb. 1 singing original works *Daddy's Got the Blues* and *I Love The Way*. Several community members gave tributes to George Farrell, a local artist, writer and musician, who died in 2019. See more on page 2 and 6. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

Mandatory septic pump-outs may be eliminated from re-inspection program

SUE TIFFIN
 Staff Reporter

Dysart's septic re-inspection program could be revised after the municipality's chief building official said a trial program running since 2017 was proving difficult to manage, and recommended council approve program changes that include eliminating mandatory pump-outs, reducing choice of qualified inspectors, and notifying property owners of inspection dates rather than relying on them to book inspections independently.

"The current septic re-inspection program is not possible to manage in its current form with current staffing levels and other resources beyond our control," said Karl Korpela, chief building official, in a report to council.

Area 1 in the "level 4" septic re-inspection program included properties on Kennis Lake and Little Kennis Lake. That trial ended December 2019.

"Of approximately 964 properties in Area 1, 112 have not complied with the requirement to complete their re-inspection, or failed to submit the third party inspection report," reads the report by Korpela. "Although this represents only 12 per cent of properties, beyond issuing 112 orders to comply, dealing with even a quarter of these infractions is not possible

see PUMP-OUTS page 3

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Seven years of Homemade Stew

Above, Dark Is Our Danger - Cedric Butz, Greg Luck and Ryan Dawson - closed the first half of the seventh annual Homemade Stew with their original songs *Curse of the Open Road* and *The Wanted Man*.

Right, Ro Randall received a standing ovation after performing two of her own original works using a Boss VE5 vocal looper at the Homemade Stew concert on Feb. 1 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. /SUE TIFFIN Staff



KDAA offers good news to member schools for winter sports

from page 1

engaged in provincial job action. None of OSSTF's sanctions target extracurricular activities or field trips. These sanctions apply equally to all school boards in Ontario. The number of occasional (supply) teachers on TLDSB's list is limited in the collective agreement between OSSTF and TLDSB in order to ensure that there is both adequate availability of occasional teachers and adequate work for those teachers."

The press release also affirms the union's commitment to voluntary extracurricular activities and field trips. It also said following the board's meeting, parents and students questioned why the school board is the only one in the province to make this decision.

Jan Haedicke of Haliburton said the decision disappointed him and his son, a fifth year student at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School playing for the Red Hawks hockey team.

If the season is cancelled, his son, who was primarily motivated to attend school because of sports, will leave school and work, he adds.

Haedicke, a Red Hawks alumnus, wonders why the board is the only one in the province to do this.

TLDSB district manager of corporate communications Catherine Shedden told the *Lindsay Advocate*: "We cannot speak to the decisions of other school boards. We

can only respond to the decision made by TLDSB. And in TLDSB classroom programming is our priority. In TLDSB we would have to collapse classrooms and have administrators supervising large numbers of students and classes in libraries and gymnasiums which is not conducive to our priority of maintaining optimal classroom programming."

The board's decision has also jeopardized the winter athletic season for schools such as HHSS because of the Kawartha District Athletic Association, which announced a Jan. 31 deadline stated in a letter to schools on Jan. 23. The deadline coincided with a membership meeting for members "to finalize the winter season schedules and playoffs."

KDAA president Kathy Carson said an extension to this deadline was reached by the executive along with school representatives, believing it was in the best interest of student athletes.

"In the end we want the students to be able to participate for as long as possible or, hopefully, participate fully. We're just trying to accommodate them. It would have been best if the board would, or could have allowed things to continue as with the other boards. Since not, I think that was what we felt [was] the best we could do," she said.

There will be an effort to reschedule regular season games and competitions after school, she said.

"So the two teams are supposed to try

and contact each other and see if they can make it work. Now some things don't work. For example, wrestling is a five-hour a day event ... that might be different than a basketball or a hockey game," she said.

The concerted effort is so students don't feel they're being penalized.

"Hopefully, something can be reached and maybe they can jump back in in time for playoffs, right? Maybe they can reschedule some games and maybe they can't reschedule others. That's going to depend on the sport and probably on the location of the game," she said, referring to the challenges of booking an arena in town compared to a high school gym. "If they can't make a game that doesn't mean they can't still join back in the playoffs later on, but time will tell."

Part of the decision for the extension by the KDAA was also based on the different start times for playoffs, as volleyball starts next week while hockey begins at the start of March.

The Red Hawks basketball junior and senior teams will host the respective teams of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School on Thursday afternoon, starting at 3:30 p.m. This was possible because St. Thomas is not part of TLDSB, but is part of the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic School Board. This week's Hawks hockey game against Holy Cross will go as scheduled at 4 p.m. at A.J. LaRue Arena in Hali-

burton.

Haedicke said former colleagues of trustee and former HHSS principal and long-time coach Gary Brohman were surprised he was silent at the TLDSB meeting where the decision was made.

When reached for comment about his silence and what message he had for coaches, parents and students, Brohman provided this prepared statement:

"I understand the frustration students[,] coaches [and] parents have concerning the cancellation of extracurricular activities. My wish is for provincial unions and government to settle their differences *now* not later so we can [get] back to normal schedules in schools," he wrote in an email.

He said he has spoken at length with TLDSB chairperson Bruce Reain.

Haedicke said he can't imagine a final school year without athletics.

"It is something you look forward to because not everyone is interested in the academics, right? So people who are into athletics it kind of balances it out. Without that they don't really want to go to school anymore," he said.

Besides HHSS, the schools affected by this board's decision are Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School, Fenelon Falls Secondary School, Gravenhurst High School, Huntsville High School, IE Weldon Secondary School and Lindsay Collegiate Vocational Institute.

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Pump-outs catch defective systems: Councillor Smith

from page 1

with our current staffing. Although it may be possible to contract this workload out to a law firm through request for tender, the issues of available court dates to hear such an abundance of matters remains a major concern."

As the program prepares to move into Area 2, Korpela suggested a revision of the septic re-inspection program through four recommendations: changing the program from a mandatory tank pump-out to sludge/scum measurement, eliminating the required pump-out but still requiring tank lids to be exposed for inspection; requesting for tender a single third party inspector firm, rather than allowing owners to select from a list of 12 qualified inspectors who might then feel obligated to help the owner pass the inspection; notifying owners of inspection dates rather than relying on them to book inspections, allowing for neighbouring systems to be inspected at the same time and including remaining Area 1 properties in the revised septic re-inspection program, scheduling their systems to be inspected first under the revised program.

"The proposed revision to the septic re-inspection program would bring Dysart et al closer in line with the re-inspection programs of Algonquin Highlands and Minden Hills which would help alleviate confusion," said Korpela in his report.

Korpela's report said an inspector would perform a "sludge judge" test to verify if a tank required pumping, and comment on the tank's condition as it relates to maintaining sewage levels, noting that would also eliminate the requirement of septic haulers "having to follow the inspectors around, allowing the inspector to complete

more inspections."

"The mandatory tank pump-out has strongly been the lead complaint and most controversial aspect of our current program," he said in the report. "Tanks will now only require to be pumped out under the maintenance requirements of the building code which is far easier to defend and closer to the province's guidelines on re-inspections."

Mayor Andrea Roberts acknowledged it was important to listen to staff who were saying the program as is wasn't working.

Councillor Larry Clarke said he appreciated the challenges but asked if there was a possibility to consider identifying those tanks that are higher risk and in which cases a pump-out would be deemed necessary, perhaps as part of a property sale, or that are of a certain age.

Korpela said it "adds a level of complexity" but that the idea had been discussed.

"I was very surprised at your report," said Councillor John Smith, who said that a rate of 88 per cent of compliance suggested "tremendous buy-in," despite 12 per cent of properties that had not completed their re-inspections, and that "to back away and let them off is a tremendous disservice to the 88 per cent of people who have respected our bylaw."

Smith said a "good portion" of other townships demand pump-outs.

"I wasn't part of designing the bylaw and it's not perfect, and you've identified some real problems," he said. "But the [Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations] ... has done a lot of research on the topic of pump-outs and they say you're missing as many as 30 per cent of the defective systems if you're not pumping out ... For us to suggest we need to back off of something that's identifying



Karl Korpela, Dysart's chief building official, spoke to council on Jan. 28 about his recommendations for revision to the municipality's septic re-inspection program, which he said had faced challenges in the trial start of the 13-year program. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

so many of the defective systems, to me is a big issue. I think we need to maintain that."

Smith spoke to the importance of taking measures to protect lake health from concerns such as harmful algae blooms that affect property values on lakes as well as the quality of the lake itself, and said it would be "foolish" to walk away from the program in place. He recommended putting the item on the agenda for the environment and climate change committee to work out solutions.

"I've heard for years that we have the best system but I feel like we're trying to catch the big tuna," said Roberts, who

thought sending it to the environment committee without new information might be "just like bouncing the ball back and forth."

Korpela said the issue was timely and might result in the cancellation of the program this year without a decision.

Kennedy said he had only received the report on Thursday, and that he didn't feel prepared to support or deny the changes. He agreed to wanting the environment committee to review the changes to offer more information.

Councillor Walt McKechnie asked, at the rate the program was going now, when it was expected to be finished. The original 13-year program was expected to be completed by 2030.

"If we keep the program the way it is, let's say, and we have to deal with the prosecution of those who didn't do it, we're definitely looking at more than 13 years," said Korpela. "We just don't have the staff time."

"So how much damage are we going to do to the lakes in that time," asked McKechie.

Smith said retaining a lawyer to ensure property owners comply with the program, passing the costs directly to those people who haven't complied, would enable the municipality to free up staff time.

"Dozens and dozens and dozens of communities across Ontario have been able to execute these programs," said Smith. "If we're not going to enforce compliance with this bylaw, well, what does that say about all our other bylaws?"

Council deferred the recommendation to be discussed at the next environment and climate change committee meeting scheduled to take place Feb. 13.

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As coronavirus cases rise elsewhere, HHHS takes precautions

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

The following are brief reports of items discussed during a Jan. 30 meeting of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services board.

As the HHHS board was gathered in a closed session prior to the open board meeting, the World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus outbreak a global health emergency.

Symptoms of the 2019 novel coronavirus range from common to severe respiratory illnesses and include fever, cough, difficulty breathing, pneumonia, and kidney failure; in severe cases death can be an outcome. At press time, 259 deaths since December had been reported in China where the outbreak is believed to have originated. HHHS CEO Carolyn Plummer said the government has so far indicated the risk in Canada continues to be low.

"We are continuing to pay attention to all of the information that is coming to us in regards to the coronavirus situation," she said, noting HHHS had been in communication with the Ministry of Health, Central East Local Health Integration Network, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit and regional health service partners to ensure the most accurate, up-to-date information was available. Her report also noted HHHS was ensuring that "we are taking the necessary actions to help protect the health and safety of our patients, residents, clients, staff, volunteers, visitors, and the community as a whole."

Increased signage at emergency departments, travel screening for those exhibiting flu-like symptoms, and necessary infection prevention precautions are in place at area hospitals and health-care centres, including reminders for hand washing.

"A number of respiratory illnesses, including some common coronaviruses, are circulating at this time of year and it is peak flu season," said Plummer's report. "Most people with common coronavirus illness will recover on their own; members of the public can seek recommendations from their healthcare provider about steps to relieve symptoms."

In Ontario, at press time, there were three confirmed cases of novel coronavirus.

HHHS achieves accreditation

Haliburton Highlands Health Services has officially received its accreditation



Carolyn Plummer, HHHS CEO, speaks at a board meeting held Jan. 30 in Haliburton. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

designation.

"A lot of work to get there but we have officially received that so it's great news," said Plummer, who acknowledged "the hard work and effort of everybody involved in the accreditation process: staff, physicians, volunteers, folks from the various committees, board members."

Plummer said it was an "excellent process for helping identify opportunities for improvement," and based on feedback from Accreditation Canada, had established an action plan to address areas that could be improved.

"I think the plan that we have is a good one, we've already crossed some of the things off our list and we're continuing to move forward," she said.

Deficit continues

Haliburton Highlands Health Services continues to face a \$167,000 year-to-date deficit as of the end of November. The closure of Highland Wood long-term care home for nearly four months last year due to multiple roof leaks was responsible for most of what was then a \$245,000 year-to-date deficit as of the end of July 2019.

"HHHS is continuing to work closely with our LHIN and our health-care partners ... to address the continued funding shortfalls for the services we provide especially in regards to long-term

care," said David Gray on behalf of David O'Brien, finance committee chair. "The management team is continuing to work on strategies and action plans to address these pressures, and is successfully holding the line on current operating costs on a monthly basis, without impacting services to our community."

The 2021 balanced operating plans have been submitted to the LHIN for its review and approval.

Youth Wellness Hub grand opening

The Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub is officially open and a grand opening ceremony will be held at the Haliburton Legion at 719 Mountain Street on Feb. 6 at 11 a.m. Tours of the facility, which is located at 12 Dysart Avenue, will take place prior to the grand opening ceremony happening, at 10 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

"The Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub offers services and supports in the areas of mental health and addictions, primary care and sexual health, employment and vocational supports, income supports and housing help, and other responsive services as needs arise," said Plummer in her report.

Anyone planning to attend and/or par-

ticipate in a tour is required to pre-register by contacting Dawn Milburn at Point in Time, at 705-457-5345 x. 338 or dawnm@pointintime.ca.

Potential for personal support worker training program

The Trillium Lakelands District School Board, Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub and HHHS are exploring the possibility of developing and implementing a local personal support worker training program.

"...[T]here is a shortage of personal support workers in the health system in general," said Plummer. "It's often very difficult in particular for home and community care services to be provided to the extent that they're needed in big part because of a lack of sufficient number of personal support workers."

"A program such as this would not only help to increase health human resources locally, but it would also help contribute to expanding educational and employment opportunities in this community," said Plummer. "It's a win-win-win all the way around and a great opportunity for our organization."

New equipment in place

Staff have been appreciating new cardiac monitoring and telemetry equipment acquired for both emergency rooms and the inpatient acute care unit through the support of the HHHS Foundation.

"The staff have been saying nothing but positive things about it," said Plummer, who noted the additional features of the new equipment compared to the old equipment helps improve patient care and the patient experience.

"Cardiac monitoring and telemetry are not only essential for patients with heart problems but are also needed for trauma, stroke, shock, hypothermia, sepsis, and many other health conditions for patients of all ages from infants to older adults," said Plummer's report. "Additionally, some medications require cardiac monitoring for safe administration. This new equipment and software also allows for transmission of cardiac data to specialists in other centres for interpretation, and if transfer is needed, it facilitates seamless patient care."

HHHS has also upgraded X-ray equipment, and is digitizing current equipment in both the Minden and Haliburton diagnostic imaging departments.

"This upgrade will help improve the accuracy of X-ray images, as well as the speed of transmission, which will help improve patient care," said Plummer's report.

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Dysart welcomes sledders, restricts snowmobiles from downtown

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

Snowmobilers are welcome in Haliburton, but their sleds are no longer permitted on two areas of downtown main streets.

Council passed a bylaw on Jan. 28 restricting the use of motorized snow vehicles on Highland Street between Cedar Avenue and Dysart Avenue and on Maple Avenue between York Street and Mountain Street, except for crossing at a right angle.

"The goal of this bylaw is to help everybody and to make things better here," said Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy.

The bylaw to regulate and govern the use of motorized snow vehicles within the municipality in the interest of public safety was passed after the issue of snowmobilers on pedestrian pathways was brought up in the winter season last year. It notes that snowmobiles are prohibited on sidewalks except to cross sidewalks at right angles and that riding in municipality-owned public parks or open spaces is permitted unless signs mark the area as prohibited. Daytime parking is available in municipal parking lots next to the A.J. LaRue arena, at the entrance

of Head Lake Park and at a lot on Maple Avenue while a motorized snow vehicles parking area is designated at Head Lake Park.

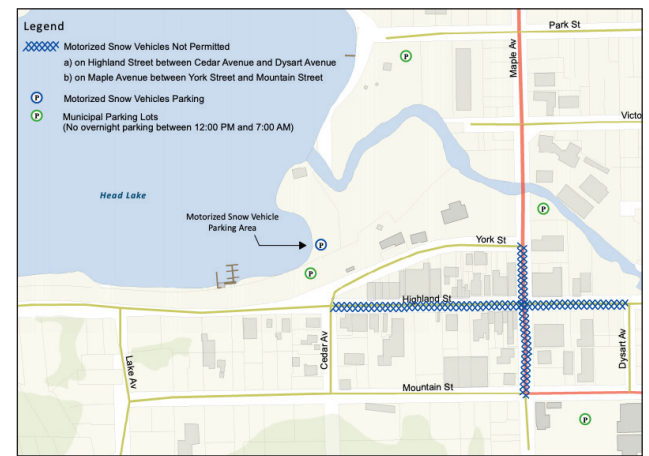
Fines of \$200 per offence were set for operating snowmobiles on prohibited highways, driving snowmobiles on municipal property without consent, operating snowmobiles on the sidewalk and obstructing, hindering or attempting to obstruct or hinder an officer.

"We see it as a compromise," reads a post by the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association on their Facebook page. "Sledders get access to parking lots and most roads, the views of non-snowmobiling residents and visitors are respected."

Kennedy thanked the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association for working to address the concerns, and the Haliburton Village BIA for being on board with the changes.

Council is also looking to having conversations about better snowmobile parking, as well as signage to direct sledders to town. Last week the BIA hung a banner identifying the snowmobile parking area in the park and welcoming snowmobilers to "downtown Haliburton."

"We need the business, we appreciate the business," said Mayor Andrea Roberts. "We're working on it to make sure we have snowmobiles in Dysart in the right area."



A snowmobile bylaw passed Jan. 28 at Dysart council restricts motorized snow vehicles from Highland Street between Cedar Avenue and Dysart Avenue and on Maple Avenue between York Street and Mountain Street./Schedule A, included with Snowmobile By-law No. 2020-11, Dysart et al files

Incentives for creating affordable housing

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

The City of Kawartha Lakes and the County of Haliburton will host two information sessions next week aimed at developers, landlords and homeowners about incentive programs for the creation of affordable housing.

One session will take place at the Haliburton Legion on Tuesday, Feb. 11 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and the second will take place at the Fenelon Falls Community Centre on Thursday, Feb. 13, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Both sessions will offer the same information.

"It's all related to the housing and homelessness plan we recently approved," Hope Lee, manager of human services for the City of Kawartha Lakes, told the *Echo*. The city is the social services manager for Haliburton County.

Lee presented the housing and homelessness plan to Haliburton County councillors in November. That plan contains information on the lack of affordable housing locally, what is considered affordable rent or affordable home ownership for people in certain income brackets, and also lays out housing goals for the coming decade. That information will be presented at the info sessions, along with details of funding programs for those who commit to create affordable housing in the community.

There is funding available for those who offer to construct buildings with new affordable units, however, as Lee pointed out, "it's not all about building new rentals, or new ownership."

There are incentives available for converting market rental units into affordable units. In the case of a multi-unit building, it could be converting the entire building, or just a certain number of units. Affordable rent means that the amount of rent does not exceed one third of a household's gross income. The city and landlord would agree on what is fair market rent for the units.

"The way the program works, tenants would be selected from our waiting list," Lee said.

The tenants or tenants would pay their share, with subsidies comprising the rest of the landlord's rent. In any cases of damage or disputes, Lee notes that the city's support services will assist landlords.

"Another component is homeowners who have a home they want to create a second unit in," Lee said, explaining that funding is also available for construction costs in such cases. She noted that accepting funding means there is an expectation that units will be provided as affordable housing for an agreed-upon amount of time.

Construction projects will be subject to municipal approval processes, and municipalities themselves are also encouraged to provide incentives for the creation of affordable housing units, such as the waiving of building permits and other fees, and consideration of lowered or waived property taxation.

There are some 1,700 households on the joint waiting list for affordable housing in the combined area of Haliburton County and the City of Kawartha Lakes, a 375 per cent increase since 2013. The greatest demand is for one-bedroom units.

For more information about the sessions or programming, contact Elise Karklins, affordable housing program co-ordinator, at ekarklins@kawarthalakes.ca or 705-324-9870, ext. 3105.

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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Homemade

AFTER A JANUARY that characteristically felt two years long and brought us a steady barrage of news of conflict in the world, the start of a new month and a night of really great music was in order to bring us out, bring us together and refuel the hope that we can make good things happen, here.

And so on Feb. 1, the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion filled up with the community, invited by the Haliburton County Folk Society ready to celebrate Homemade Stew, an evening of local musical talent, while at the same time honour the memory of George Farrell. George died Oct. 17 from complications related to a brain tumour, and this editorial space has paid homage to him before, for how much he accomplished in his time here in the Highlands and on Earth: he was a son, a husband and father, a columnist, an author, a featured artist, a musician – even, at the age of 70, becoming the blues singer he had always wanted to be.

Tributes to George by MC Nick Russell, Dave Allen, Tammy Rea, and Hugh Taylor spoke to his verve and enthusiasm, his dream for Haliburton, that he was a community connector, interesting and interested in everyone and everything. “George always believed that we in the Highlands could do anything ourselves,” said Rea, noting the concert was very much proof of that.

And on the stage, moving and creative and skilful performances by friends, neighbours, some full-time artists, some fitting their love and passion for the arts around their day jobs. Harvey Lamb came

out of retirement to perform what he had been working on in retirement, while Trina West returned to the Homemade stage for the seventh annual show after performing at the first. Women sang together, friends played together, the stage was set for a variety of instruments, the entire first half was made up of original material. The young, the old, the working, the volunteers, some who had played music for years, some who stood on the same stage as their former teachers, all who practised and played and put themselves and their art out there, sharing with us all. In some cases it was difficult

to tell who was having more fun: the audience taking it all in or the musicians on stage, smiling at each other and toward the general direction of the enthusiastic crowd they couldn’t quite see for the lights.

And in that audience, other familiar faces who bring their own light to the area, bringing community together in their own way, as George did, or who turned

up to be there despite what might have seemed like a heavy start to the year, ready to move forward and lift up those who, as Rea said George believed we could do here, “tell our own stories” and “sing our own damn songs.”

January was a tough one for some. But we keep going, together. In the words of Ro Randall, who captivated the audience that night earning a mid-concert standing ovation, and created a buzz of excitement for how lucky we all are to live in the same place together: “All you gotta do is show up.”

Here’s to the community connectors.



sue
tiffin

Editorial



Foreshadowing the next season

by Darren Lum

One time too many

SIMON WAS really ticked at his grandfather. Here it was Saturday night, all his friends had come up to the lake for the weekend, there was plenty of snow on the trails but could he go out with his buddies? No way was what the old guy said. And since it was his machine, Simon was stuck.

Yes he had two beers this afternoon but that was hours ago and he was fine, just fine. There was a party over on the next lake and Simon wanted to head over with Kate hanging on behind him. This was his chance to show her what snowmobiling was all about while getting a little up close and personal. Grandpa was being totally unreasonable.

Howard had dug in his heels. There was no way on earth he was going to let Simon get on the snowmobile, ride across the lake after drinking and then, even worse, come back the same way after a party. He knew Simon thought him unreasonable but he was not going to change his mind. Because he knew what could happen.

Back then the day had been perfect. Fresh snow, blue sky horizon to horizon and sparkling clear sunshine. It was the kind of snowmobiling Howard lived for during those long winter months. He and Derek had been out on the trails for most of the day, racing across lakes and through forests. They had caught the odd glimpse of deer as they scattered and there was no shortage of other riders out as well.

That night Howard’s friend was having a drop in at his cottage across the lake. Derek was always up for a good time and convinced Howard they still had enough stamina, despite all the riding they had done that day, to do a little partying. Although feeling somewhat done in, Howard had agreed. After all, as Derek liked to say, life was short and winter never long enough. So they headed out.

If the day had been perfect, the night was just as good. As the two friends straddled their machines, the whine

of sleds out on the lake cut through the cold air like a pack of hornets. All thoughts of fatigue left Howard as he felt his adrenaline start to pump in anticipation. This was going to be a great time.

He led the way since he knew where they were going. It was easy to get confused when you couldn’t see the landmarks and Derek wasn’t familiar with the area. Moonlight spilled over the frozen lake like milk on a table top. The rush of air as their snowmobiles flew across the open expanse was exhilarating and the lights on the other side urged them onward.

However once the two friends arrived on the opposite shore, and started to relax with a couple of beers, the fresh air and exertion of the day started to kick in. It wasn’t long before Howard could feel himself fading and looking at Derek the party animal, he could tell Derek was in the same way. So after a few words, Derek chugged down his beer and they set out once again.

This time Derek wanted to take the lead, and Howard was happy to hold back a bit. He was tired now and just wanted to get home at his own pace. Sure he had to eat some of Derek’s snowy wake but he really didn’t care. In fact he found his thoughts drifting off to their plans for the next day.

That’s when he suddenly realized he didn’t see Derek’s machine. And he also realized they had strayed away from the line to his place, having veered to the left where the lake narrowed. Howard silently cursed his friend for making the return longer than it had to be. Other machines were buzzing off in the distance. He couldn’t tell if one of them was Derek.

Tired and irritated Howard headed back. If his buddy wanted to prolong the night, more power to him.

But Derek never did return. He and his machine had ended up at the narrows in 12 feet of water.

Down



sharon
lynch

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points of view

Premium service

ON WEDNESDAY, I ordered a new GPS and paid the premium shipping rate so it would arrive in one to two days, because, frankly, I have no patience.

The story should have ended there.

Unfortunately, on day two, the courier company emailed that delivery would occur on Tuesday, which meant I was paying premium rate for six-day delivery.

Some people – and by this I mean the saintly – would not be upset by this.

But I'm 57, which means I am learning to enjoy two things: telling kids to turn the damn music down and getting good customer service.

So I phoned the courier.

I calmly explained that while I had paid for one- to two-day shipping, I was getting six-day service.

The customer service person promptly told me the shipper hadn't yet handed over the parcel.

"You're going to have to call the vendor," she said.

Minutes later, after working up further indignation by thinking about the ridiculous price of celery, I called the vendor.

Unfortunately, their customer service representative did not have a clue as to how to do her job. For instead of letting me enjoy a few moments of revelling in the fact that justice was on my side, she stopped me mid-sentence and conceded.

"Pardon me?" I said, trying against all odds to remain indignant.

"You're right, sir," she said sweetly. "I will reimburse the full shipping charge – and, also, turn down the music you hear when you are on hold."

She then pleasantly bid me a nice day and politely ended the call.

Even so, according to the Code of the Middle-aged Curmudgeon, I still

had the right to be grumpy because, dang-nabbit, free or not, I wanted the parcel at my home in one to two days. And here the courier was telling me it would arrive in six.

So at least I had that going for me.

An hour later, however, I got an email telling me my parcel would arrive by end of day.

It was what I call a worst case scenario: it was going to be on time and free.

"I'm going to write them a sternly worded letter," I told Jenn. "They don't know the first thing about customer service."

Jenn was confused. For like many of her generation, she naturally assumed this would make me happy. This just goes to show how no one understands the middle-aged man anymore. It's as if people have forgotten that half the fun of being middle-aged is complaining to your friends how no one knows what good customer service is anymore.

Lucky for me, this saga quickly took another turn.

After waiting all day for delivery – admittedly, not hard since I work from home – my package had still not arrived.

This gave me cause to make another phone call.

"Hello," the courier company's customer service person said.

"This morning, you sent an email telling me my parcel was supposed to be here by end of day," I said indignantly. "I waited all day and no one showed up."

"Oh sir," she said. "End of day today was the *scheduled* delivery time."

"Well, I *scheduled* a day of waiting for just that reason," I said.

"But it was only the *scheduled* delivery, sir," she reiterated.

"Understand?"

"No," I replied, happily indignant.

"It will be there on Monday," she said.

"I paid for premium service," I replied.

"There's nothing I can do now," she said.

It gets better.

On Sunday, I received another email, telling me my parcel would now arrive on day six, which is, coincidentally the only day of the next two weeks I must work away from home.

Suddenly, I had something to complain about again.

Now that's premium service.



steve
galea

Loon Tales



pic of the past

This week's Pic of the Past first ran in the *Echo* in 2004. It is from a postcard showing Sunny Rock Lodge on Canning Lake near Ingoldsby as it looked perhaps 60 years ago or earlier (the photo is undated). The lodge has been transformed by present owner Sally Moore into a bed and breakfast facility. Timber frame additions have since been commissioned. Photo courtesy of Barbara Hodgson-Medd.

letters to the editor

Wear white at night

To the Editor,

Last Saturday at about 6:30 p.m. while driving in town I was turning left at the lights and came close to hitting a pedestrian crossing the road as she was wearing all black and I didn't see her until the last moment. It scared me but she didn't know I hadn't seen her and didn't realize how close she came to being hit.

Then further along on County Road 21 there were two pedestrians walking along the shoulder, again, wearing only black clothing, and I had to edge into the centre of the road at the last moment as they were not visible at a distance.

Both incidents scared me more than the pedestrians as they weren't aware of the issue.

Please, let's all be sure we are visible at night.

Jim Frost
Haliburton

Share your condolences

To the Editor,

I belong to a bereavement support group. What is shared does not leave the group. One thing which we have in common and which no one would mind being told outside is this: when people wish to say something to the bereaved, they often don't know what to say, so in the end say nothing. Not wishing to hurt, and so convey nothing of what they feel.

Should you be at a loss in this circumstance, the simple "I'm sorry for your loss" is warmly accepted. Whether near the time of bereavement or further along in the grief, it means so much when someone just speaks the word.

Eleanor Cooper
West Guilford

Cty Rd 10 needs upgrade

To the Editor,

I just read an article which prompted me to write another letter. In this piece containing news regarding Dysart et al, I read about council accepting a proposal from Ontario Traffic Inc, for traffic counting. Apparently, data will become available indicating the volume of traffic, *type of traffic*, and operating speed. (Emphasis mine.) I certainly hope Elephant Lake Road (County Road 10) will be included in this study.

For a number of years, there has been a tremendous number of potholes on this road. These are damaging to vehicles and difficult to navigate around. Staff do try to keep them filled but to no avail. In my experience, 2011 was the last year when "paving" parts of the road which are so

subject to having potholes was done. I put "paving" in quotes as this ersatz paving consisted of spreading tar and pebbles. Not a great surface for the type of traffic which continually uses this thoroughfare.

If the count includes this road, it will be determined that a large number of logging trucks, weighing upwards of 40 tons (approximately 30,000 kg), regularly travel up and down. No wonder there are so many potholes. Users of this road deserve a better surface which will be less subject to damage from such traffic.

As a daily user of County Road 10, I look forward to a proper conclusion to this dilemma.

George Denny
Benoir Lake

Dysart budget includes 3.65% tax increase

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

The following are brief reports of items discussed during a Jan. 28 meeting of Dysart et al council.

Dysart councillors passed the 2020 budget months earlier this year than in the past, but not without further discussion.

The 3.65 per cent increase equates to an increase in taxes on residential properties of \$10.36 for every \$100,000 of assessment. For commercial properties that figure will be \$15.36 for every \$100,000 of assessment, and for industrial properties, an increase of \$17.80 for every \$100,000 of assessment.

Councillor John Smith expressed his concern that his request to add \$200,000 to the roads budget was not incorporated into the budget and said council wasn't putting "enough emphasis on roads." Smith had wanted to see the additional funding put into the roads department with offsetting savings to be found elsewhere, however that plan was not supported by the majority of council.

"The fact of the matter is, the residents believe that roads are way more important than we're attaching to them based on our spending decisions here," said Smith.

Councillor Larry Clarke and Councillor Walt McKechnie spoke about the value of recreational and cultural institutions including the museum, what Smith said people would call his "favourite targets."

"That's part of an overall community,

part of a balanced budget we're doing," said Councillor Larry Clarke. "...They don't move here because of the roads, they move here because it's a place to take pride in."

Clarke acknowledged that many residents have limited means, but also that it was important to offer infrastructure in the community so that people would find what they were looking for locally rather than in Bracebridge. He said council had recognized the essential need for improving the roads and were evaluating the overall roads structure to determine how they might be upgraded.

Mayor Andrea Roberts said there hadn't been a consensus in taking \$200,000 out from other areas of the budget when the topic was broached in December.

"While there's difference of opinion, that's OK," she said. "We all got duly elected ... It was one of my goals to have more debate at council ... But when we do vote, then it becomes a decision of council."

In a recorded vote that he requested, Smith's was the sole vote against the budget.

Traffic assessment to guide council in future road decisions

A proposal for traffic counting, classification and speed survey services from Ontario Traffic Inc. was approved, for a price of \$33,700, to be funded by the municipality's 2020 operating budget.

"As part of updating its asset management plan, the municipality has invested

in software (DOT Roads) to aid in determining the future needs of its roads," wrote director of public works Rob Camelon in a report to council. "One key component of determining needs is assessing the traffic on each segment. Previous traffic counts did not consider truck traffic or operating speed and counts were not taken on each section."

Though the proposal was advertised for 30 days, the bid from Ontario Traffic Inc. was the only one received.

"Once completed, data will be available on all 337 road sections that indicate the volume of traffic, type of traffic and operating speed," said Camelon's report. "Counts will be completed prior to the summer season with a final report due in August."

The cost for the project was included in the 2020 draft budget.

Councillors contemplate video surveillance

A draft video surveillance policy to regulate the use of video and audio surveillance in Dysart was presented to council for review, though chief administrative officer Tamara Wilbee said she will be meeting with other CAOs in the county to discuss a similar security policy recently outlined by the county that might further guide Dysart's policy.

"Information obtained through video surveillance will be used primarily for safety, security and enforcement purposes, which relate to the protection of staff and the public, the deterrence or detection of illegal activity, including theft, vandalism, or other property damage or the contraventions of municipal

policies," reads Dysart's draft policy.

"It's a sign of the times," said Mayor Andrea Roberts.

Security cameras have been purchased for the A.J. LaRue arena and will be tested there by staff prior to being tested outdoors at the skate park in the spring to ensure they meet the municipality's requirements and function well. The policy notes that only the CAO, director of parks and recreation or staff designated by the director would be permitted to access the data collected by the equipment, which would not be retained longer than 30 days unless required due to a criminal, safety or security investigation or for evidentiary purposes.

Live monitoring would not take place unless an incident was suspected to be in progress, for example, noted Wilbee, if there was a concern or threat of vandalism, and that monitors would not be visible to the public. Posted signs would alert the public to the surveillance and Wilbee said through compliance with Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario regulations, privacy would not be breached.

"We'd only be going in to look at the data if there was an incident," said Andrea Mueller, recreation and events coordinator.

"I'm not one that's concerned about this, but some people do have quite an aversion, big brother syndrome, that people are watching them, they don't like it," said Councillor John Smith, who suggested the draft policy be tightened up in a few areas, which was noted would likely happen with the follow-up meeting involving the CAOs.

see page 9

Dance Happens Here Haliburton (DH3) presents

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DH3 is a part of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative

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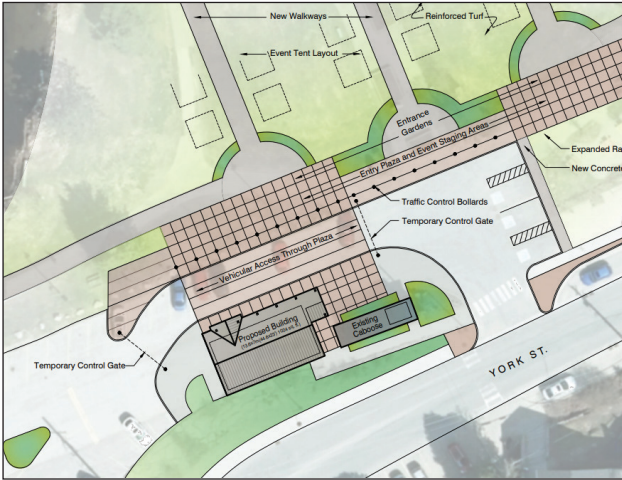
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- Located in between Minden & Haliburton Village
- Shopping & restaurants are nearby

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from page 8

"Are we the only people in the world who have surveillance cameras?" asked Councillor Walt McKechnie. "What are we talking about here? What is the concern? We're trying to protect our kids, our property."



Councillors reviewed a proposed building and park entry plaza for Head Lake Park at a Jan. 28 meeting of Dysart council. /Figure 2: Head Lake Park: Proposed Building and Associated Arrival Plaza plan from Basterfield & Associates

Head Lake Park visitors centre finds space

A location has been chosen for the proposed Head Lake Park visitors centre, a building welcoming visitors to the park and offering public washrooms.

"It is anticipated that the building will become an important feature within Head Lake Park and that placement of the building should include enough contextual information to ensure that it integrates well with the park and the immediate surroundings," reads a report to council.

Representatives of Basterfield and Associates, who are assisting The Rotary Club of Haliburton and the municipality on the project, visited the site, planning both building function and early location options while considering a soils analysis report of the land.

"After review of the geotechnical information in the soils report it was determined that any location for the building within the open lawn and existing pathways just inside the park off York Street would be structurally problematic and expensive given the very poor soil conditions in this part of the park," reads the report.

Six options for potential locations were looked at that were both away from poor soil conditions in the park and close to the downtown area. A spot between the park's tourism caboose and the Rails End Gallery was recommended, as were minor modifications to the parking area, a small reduction of parking spaces, and a new curbed area around the proposed building and caboose.

"This area will be large enough to receive and accommodate [the] visitor centre, washroom and possible small seasonal food service activities associated with the new building," reads the report. A new pedestrian plaza entrance to the park could "provide a more celebratory, safe and organized entrance to the park," and might offer benches, bike racks, "some permanent interpretative panels about the relationship of the old mill to the lake and the downtown, banner poles to match the poles at the cenotaph and a park map."

"I'm really excited about this project," said Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy, who said discussions about the master park plan offers ideas that are "truly exciting." He noted there would be some park disturbances, for example, the farmers market would be located elsewhere in the park this summer, as some of these plans come to fruition. Kennedy thanked Rotary Club for their initiative – the club has committed up to \$75,000 toward the project.

Head Lake Park is a popular space for recreational activities and festivals.

"With approval of this new park building location and proposed site plan, the Rotary Club may advance the building and site designs to a construction ready level," reads a report to council.

The report notes approval will also allow the refinement and completion of the park master plan, which B&A is working on in consultation with a stakeholders group, which met once last year and plans to meet again in March.

Winter conditions rough on roads

Fluctuations between warm and cold weather this season, as well as large amounts of rain and freezing rain

has seen duties change daily at the roads department as it works to keep the roads maintained, according to a roads department update.

"The amount of rain we've had in the past two to three weeks has just been devastating to these roads," Rob Camelon, director of public works, told council.

The roads department has had two incidents in which trucks have slid off of the roads.

"This is understandable considering the conditions that we have been faced with," said operations manager Jeff Sisson in the report to council. Nobody was injured in the incidents in which one truck was reported to need about \$5,000 in repairs.

Coleman Lake Bridge contract awarded

The contract to replace the timber bridge deck of Coleman Bridge on Coleman Lake Road with a new concrete bridge deck was awarded to low bidder Beam Construction (1984) Co. Ltd for about \$270,000 plus HST.

Public works director Rob Camelon's report said the concrete bridge was recommended "due to the increased life span over timber (50 years versus 15 years), noting the existing timber deck failed after 13 years, in part due to pests according to an assessment by Tulloch Engineering.

The construction is planned for spring 2020.

Firefighters volunteer almost 6,200 hours in 2019

Fire chief Mike Iles commended the department's personnel for their work in 2019, noting the team responded to 364 calls last year, committing a total of 6,195 hours of time, an average of 200 hours per firefighter.

"[They're] very dedicated, [we're] very fortunate to have the volunteers we have," said Iles.

Mayor Andrea Roberts agreed, noting, "[t]hose hours are not generally Monday to Friday, 9 to 5, they're right when you sit down to eat, it's two in the morning, they're birthdays," acknowledging that many volunteers also have full-time jobs.

Gas station, car wash, restaurant, convenience store proposed

Council supported the general principle of a proposal for the construction of a gas station, car wash, restaurant and convenience store on a lot next to the Pinestone Resort located on County Road 21 west of Haliburton, as well as an easement over Pinestone's driveway to provide access to the 1.32 acre development.

In a report to council, Ore Alade, planner, said the pro-

posal is subject to conditions and comments received through a public review process.

"The owners are undergoing a site plan control process with the municipality to review the proposed plans for the subject area," reads the report. "Provincial approvals are required for the gas station. These approvals are required to regulate the facility and protect ground water."

As part of the application, a stormwater management plan, environmental site assessment and hydrogeological information are required to support the site plan for the development, information that will be obtained and evaluated as part of the application, according to the report.

"It's very exciting for our community, especially to have a car wash," said Mayor Andrea Roberts. "There'll be a lineup. So hope to see construction going shortly, that's fabulous."

Rails End Gallery request for continued funding

Marguerite Easby and Dagmar Boettcher, representing the board of the Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre made a delegation to council on behalf of Laurie Jones, director/curator of the gallery and arts centre, to request a continued municipal grant of \$50,000 for 2020.

"Dysart et al is our main funder and accounts for 25 to 30 per cent of our operating income," reads a report to council by Jones, noting other funding sources include earned income such as membership and program fees, fundraising, sponsorships and advertising, donations and project funding from federal, provincial and county sources. "This gives Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre the stability to plan and deliver a wide range of services to our community and to maintain Haliburton's landmark rail station as a cultural amenity."

Easby, presenting Jones's report to council, noted the community-based, public art gallery was a popular tourist destination "known for its engaging exhibitions, welcoming staff, local artist gift shop and for organizing excellent cultural festivals that bring thousands of visitors to the region." The space is home to events including Haliburton Art and Craft Festival, Haliburton DrumFest, Trash N Treasures Market and Butter Tart Contest, and a year-round program of local and regional artists and group exhibitions.

Skating and shinny in West Guilford

Dysart et al staff repaired boards on West Guilford's outdoor skating rink, and staff flooded the rink with the assistance of the fire department, making the rink ready for use. The rink will be maintained by volunteers.

Snow Shuffle

West Guilford Community Centre

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 29, 2020



First prize
50/50 & many
more prizes

50/50 FOR ATV & Snowmobile Ride

Ride, Lunch, Dinner & Dance \$50
Tickets are limited

Ride/Lunch \$40
Unlimited tickets
Also available on day of event

Dinner/Dance \$40
Tickets are limited

STARTING TIME:
9:00am-12pm
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Last Checkpoint
Community Centre 5pm
Dinner 6pm
Dance by D. J. Sassy Sandra

TICKET SALES FOR RIDE, DINNER & DANCE

Limited quantity available at:
West Guilford Shopping Centre
& West Guilford Auto Centre

Ride ONLY tickets will be sold the day of the event. 9:00am – 12pm at the Community Center. All cards must be drawn by 5pm. No exceptions.



Plus
additional prizes to be given 8:30pm

West Guilford Community Center ATV and Snowmobile Ride Dinner & Dance

Interest growing for new forest school

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

When Cheryl Hamilton talks about why she pursued the idea of a forest school in Haliburton County, she quotes inspirational speaker Alexander den Heijer: “when a flower doesn’t bloom, you fix the environment in which it grows, not the flower.”

For Hamilton that concept has meant committing to driving four hours daily for one of her children, who had been struggling to learn within the current school system but was thriving at an alternative education centre in Gravenhurst.

“Having a background in childcare and working in children’s mental health for the past 15 years, I know the importance of outdoor education and hands-on learning on both a professional and personal level,” Hamilton said. “The question that I’ve always pondered is, why doesn’t our county offer this type of program ... and that’s what led me on this journey.”

Hamilton approached Irene Heaven and Heather Reid at Abbey Gardens last fall, and then Debbie Ray-Val, who together with husband Carlin operate five forest schools in Ontario, about bringing a forest school to Haliburton.

“We thought it was best to partner with a program that has deep roots and expertise, specifically in Forest School,” said Hamilton. “More than ever, there is a need for this opportunity for our community ... Giving children the opportunity to spend their days outdoors immersed in nature opens up the door to so many unique experiences and I can’t wait to see Forest School flourish in Haliburton County.”

Within about 48 hours of At Last Forest Schools announcing online the opening of a forest school in Haliburton County this upcoming fall, more than 150 interested people had joined a Facebook group looking for more information.

Ray-Val said she was thrilled to be able to bring a forest school to the area in which she grew up.

“Growing up in Haliburton and the reason why I have such a strong pull to bring this program there is that it provided me with just this incredible childhood where I’d be out by myself, and whether I was as far away from the house as I thought I was, but it was a unique feeling to be alone and self-sufficient and be able to be me and sing at the top of my lungs or look under rocks or whatever it was that I wanted to do in that moment, that putter time to develop my soul. I don’t know how much kids get that anymore,” she said.

Ray-Val met Carlin at teachers’ college in Thunder Bay, where they studied outdoor environmental ecological education. Soon after their daughter was born, they found themselves touring schools in Europe, looking at what supported and provided the best education for kids. The same school systems in which kids were thriving were also engaging students for much of their school day outside.

“It was fuel for the fire, just telling us we had to do this, we had to provide this,” said Ray-Val.

Back home in Owen Sound, they began holding information sessions sharing with the community what they wanted to offer, an outdoor school that followed a philosophy of Forest Schools, which have been around since the 1950s: repeated and regular access to the outdoors, small groups of children of varied ages with a certified teacher, inquiry-based play, the opportunity for risky play.

Ray-Val said she and Carlin dreamed of having 12 kids in the school, but at registration time in June – with parents stay-



Students enrolled in forest school explore outdoors, learning while immersed in nature. / Submitted by At Last Forest Schools



ing up until midnight to be first in line to register a spot – more than 30 kids had signed up, and by September 2016 when the school opened its doors, more than 50.

“We were like, OK, people agree with us, this is really needed,” said Ray-Val.

At Last Forest Schools are now open in Owen Sound, Kincardine, Saugeen Shores, Saugeen Valley, while a Forest/Farm hybrid school runs in Allenford.

Meanwhile, friends in Haliburton County who had been following Ray-Val’s career were sending messages: “We’re following you, we see what you’re doing, and we want it here.”

In September, At Last Forest Schools will offer a year-round program twice a

week and on PA Days, available to home schooled kids or kids who might spend half of the week at forest school and half of the week at their public school. School days are relaxed, without stress of rigid schedules.

“There’s no hard bell, there’s no, ding ding, it’s 9 a.m., switch your mind off and switch into this,” said Ray-Val. “It’s very fluent and very open and it makes for a relaxed atmosphere for kids who can be triggered by different things or who have anxiety.”

Though teachers are Ontario-certified and knowledgeable about the provincial curriculum, they don’t necessarily follow it as is typical at forest school,

“

We have the least amount of issues at forest school that you can imagine. I’m sure it’s the environment.

— Debbie Ray-Val

Co-founder, At Last Forest Schools

instead following the interest of the students as they explore their environment, sometimes learning about five subjects at a time depending on what they’ve discovered outdoors.

“All day long they’re counting sticks, they’re reading field guides, they’re thinking of the history or geography of an area,” said Ray-Val. “They’re constantly learning about the curriculum.”

Ray-Val said that kids and parents have reported increased interest in learning, stronger resiliency, in making connections and fostering relationships and in improved confidence. Some students in their program are attending based on their school’s recommendation, and many of the students who attend are teachers’ kids, according to Ray-Val.

Students who might have significant challenges at traditional school have been quite successful at forest school, she said, often bringing that success back to public school if they return.

“They come and find their groove and they’re totally fine,” she said. “We have the least amount of issues at forest school that you can imagine. I’m sure it’s the environment. You’re feeling a little anxiety, you’re feeling a little angry, you have all the space in the world to remove yourself and take some deep breaths and nobody’s going to hound you to deal with it right then and there in a small, confined space.”

Parents are also welcome to volunteer or to join their kids during the day, if they are able to do so.

“Parents will ask, can I come? Yes, please! If we can impact parents, that’s going to impact the kids even more. If the kids can watch their parents value nature, then they’re going to value it more and they’re going to get more out of the program,” said Ray-Val.

She notes that some parents will send their kids because they understand the importance of being outside, though they might not be able to encourage it themselves, but that everyone in some way has a connection to and understanding of the importance of nature in our lives, and that recent research suggesting that “being outside makes for a healthy, happy body and mind and spirit” has been helpful for their mission.

“Now that we’ve seen so many incredible transformations in children and families and had all these incredible testimonials, and been able to provide support for the schools, we never could have imagined how beneficial it could have been,” said Ray-Val of the program.

For more information about At Last Forest Schools – Haliburton, visit atlastforestschoools.com or join At Last Forest Schools – Haliburton on Facebook. Online Q&A sessions will be held via the school’s Facebook page on Feb. 13 and May 20 at 8:30 p.m. while an in-person parent information session will be held at Abbey Gardens on April 5 at 1 p.m.

(A Forest School at Camp Wanakita will also open this fall. Read more about it in next week’s *Echo*.)

Hike Haliburton launches winter edition

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

2020 is ushering in a winter of firsts for hiking enthusiasts in Haliburton County.

Better known for being held during the autumn with its cool morning hikes, set against the backdrop of the hallmark signs of the season with leaves of golden, rust red and a slight chill of the morning air, the Hike Haliburton Festival is introducing a winter edition coming the second weekend of February.

The event, which runs from Saturday, Feb. 8 to Sunday, Feb. 9, has already accepted registration for more than 20 guided and themed snow hikes, demonstrations and events for all ages, interests and abilities, according to Hike Haliburton's online promotional material.

Haliburton County's director of tourism Amanda Virtanen said this winter edition is a pilot year and is made possible by Celebrate Ontario.

It's garnered great interest, having more than 300 spots filled with 43 per cent of those registered from outside the county, she adds.

"We decided to test the waters with a winter edition of the Hike Haliburton Festival, as we know that snowshoeing is one of the fastest growing winter leisure activities in Canada and we've heard from several partners that the activity is in high demand from their visitors," she wrote in an email. "That said, the county's tourism committee will carefully evaluate the success of the first Winter Edition before making a decision about 2021. We are hopeful it will be a success and another great way to engage our visitors with eve-

rything that #MyHaliburtonHighlands has to offer."

This event will be more than just snowshoeing/hiking.

It offers participants a wide range of themed events, which combine the arts, culture, heritage and eating experiences held throughout Haliburton County. This includes live concerts, dinners and camping experiences.

All hikes are free of charge. Donations are welcome. See winter.hikehaliburton.com for more information on snowshoe hikes and for rental availability, including the Haliburton Highlands Museum, where you can borrow snowshoes by donation.

This year's Hike Haliburton Winter Edition is promising the public an opportunity to see the Highlands in a new way with its offering of guided snowshoe hikes and a diverse collection of events from live entertainment to education opportunities. See winter.hikehaliburton.com for more information.

/DARREN LUM Staff



Members show to feature more than 60 artists

Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre has kicked off each of the last 12 years with its annual Members Salon, a group show where artists interpret a theme or word in their medium of choice. Clearly "Water" got those creative juices flowing this winter – 67 artists came in with a total of 107 original works.

You will find them lining the walls at Rails End from floor to ceiling in what is called a salon hanging, truly a colourful sight to behold. Once you have seen them all you can cast a vote for the People's Choice of 2020. With so many varied and inspired pieces, Water invites discussion about our most important resource, and

is an example of how art speaks to us all.

Water opens Saturday, Feb. 8 with a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Gallery hours are Wednesday to Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information visit www.railsendgallery.com.

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Highlands East draft budget focuses on maintaining assets

SUE TIFFIN
Staff Reporter

At a Jan. 28 regular meeting of Highlands East council, department heads presented a 2020 draft budget with a 3.85 per cent levy increase, about \$18 on \$100,000

assessment.
Highlands East chief administrative officer and treasurer Shannon Hunter told the *Echo* that after the municipality conducted an organizational review and facility review completed last year, the items that were earmarked for the 2020 draft budget were included for health and safety reasons or were items that have been identified by staff as having a need to be addressed in the current year.

“Council directed staff through the capital forecasting and facility review to go through and identify priorities and so the only thing that is, what was presented to council in the budget in the current year were health and safety items, along with items that would be required to maintain our assets,” she told the *Echo*.

Hunter said items in the draft budget include exhaust vents in fire stations, and said there is money included in the draft budget to repair Station 6’s roof, though she noted the facility review suggested a full roof replacement and the draft budget recommends a repair. For Cardiff pool, \$200,000 was earmarked in the budget for new change rooms and a mechanical room. There is also \$225,000 in the draft budget for a sand dome in Glamorgan to replace the sand shelter that is currently there now, and the municipality has continued to put money in the budget for a new municipal office, recommended in the organizational review.

The facilities report, conducted by WalterFedy and presented to council on Nov. 12, assessed the condition of 34 of the

municipality’s facilities, including sheds, fire stations, community centres and municipal administration facilities, offering an extensive report for each structure. A total of more than \$2 million in repairs was recommended to happen in 2020.

“I feel it’s a difficult time because I too agree that we have to take the public, we have to take the ratepayers into account, but we also have to be financially sustainable,” said Hunter. “... it’s a struggle. Every year you face this, it’s just becoming more and more prevalent and now that we have more data, it’s harder ... Every asset you have is important to someone.” Hunter said a fire committee review and the county’s service delivery review are still outstanding.

“It was a really hard draft budget to put together because ... until decisions are made, we’re putting forward a budget that is, just maintaining assets as they are,” she said.

Hunter said the county’s service review is expected to be complete at the end of June. Regarding if she knew when a fire committee review might be complete, she said: “I do not. I’m hoping in a timely manner, but I’m not expecting it within the next couple of months.” According to a motion, council directed staff to look at needs for municipal offices.

“This is a draft, and a lot could change between now and our next meeting,” said Hunter. The draft budget is expected to return to council for further discussion on Feb. 11.

Crossword brought to you by

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- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Small deer
 - 4. Khoikhoi peoples
 - 9. South African statesman
 - 14. Keyboard key
 - 15. Remove
 - 16. A conspicuous constellation
 - 17. Data executive
 - 18. Retired NASCAR driver
 - 20. Tightens
 - 22. A picture of the Virgin Mary
 - 23. “The Mission” actor
 - 24. Confidently
 - 28. More (Spanish)
 - 29. Sports highlight show (abbr.)
 - 30. Hand out cards
 - 31. Distinctive Asian antelope
 - 33. Arabic greeting
 - 37. Of I
 - 38. Hip hop trio
 - 39. Meat roll
 - 41. One’s mother (Brit.)
 - 42. -GYN
 - 43. Belgian city
 - 44. Plucks
 - 46. Leak slowly
 - 49. Denotes a particular region
 - 50. General’s assistant (abbr.)
 - 51. Divides
 - 55. Kid

- 58. Inland Empire Expanded Learning Symposium
 - 59. Engaged in conflict
 - 60. Former CBS sportscaster
 - 64. Characterized by unity
 - 65. Working-class
 - 66. Corners
 - 67. __ de plume
 - 68. Influential French artist
 - 69. “Very” in musical terms
 - 70. Financial account
- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Long, flat abdominal muscles
 - 2. Small Eurasian willow
 - 3. Justified in terms of profitability
 - 4. Required
 - 5. River that starts in Turkey
 - 6. Disfigure
 - 7. A way of communicating (abbr.)
 - 8. Leaks slowly
 - 9. Shady place under trees
 - 10. Made a speech
 - 11. Long, angry speech
 - 12. Mortar trough
 - 13. Autonomic nervous system
 - 19. Southern India

- island
- 21. Grab quickly
- 24. Ancient Mesopotamian city
- 25. With three uneven sides
- 26. Football visionary
- 27. Primordial matters
- 31. Facing towards the flow of a glacier
- 32. “A Delicate Balance” writer
- 34. Emits coherent radiation
- 35. Commercial
- 36. Groups of foot bones
- 40. Out of print
- 41. Partner to cheese
- 45. German river
- 47. Concluding speech
- 48. Spanish dish
- 52. Prominent California cape Point
- 53. Any high mountain
- 54. Ethiopian lake
- 56. Mr.
- 57. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- 59. Large, flightless bird
- 60. Oil industry term (abbr.)
- 61. Something one can draw
- 62. Officers in charge
- 63. Greek island

See answers on page 14.

Family secrets, deceptions and astonishing truths

Imagine seeing the ocean liner ticket of your great-grandmother when she first arrived in Canada. Or finding a record of your family dating back to the 1600s. And how would you feel if you discovered that a long-held family story wasn’t completely true?

All this, and more, was uncovered over the course of SIRCH Community Services’ Family Roots pilot program.

As part of Family Roots, senior volunteers were trained to conduct online family research while learning about community resources. The trainees were then matched with other seniors, who were more isolated or needing connection, to research their family history.

“Family Roots has been a rich and rewarding experience for all participants. Trainees have gained skills, and with their senior matches have fostered companionship and friendship,” said Donna Gagnon, SIRCH’s Family Roots co-ordinator. “There’s been so many amazing discoveries along the way – from learning more about a family’s country of origin, to finding long lost relatives. It’s been fun and exhilarating!”

Participants want to share their experiences and discoveries at a public event.

SIRCH’s Family Roots Reveal Night: Family Secrets, Deceptions and Astonishing Truths takes place Wednesday, Feb. 19, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Haliburton Highlands Museum, 66 Museum Rd., Haliburton. This is a free event, and all are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

“At the reveal night, you’ll hear from a woman who discovered her Quaker ancestry, and about a 98-year-old woman who found out she had three half-siblings in England,” said Gagnon. “In addition, you’ll see examples of families that trace their roots back to France and Italy, and how they came to Canada and the Haliburton Highlands. You’ll also hear about the connections made between trainees and their matches.”

The Family Roots program is made possible by a grant from the Government of Canada New Horizons for Seniors Program, and is supported by the Haliburton Highlands Museum, and Haliburton Highlands CARP Chapter 54.

Submitted by SIRCH

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Thursday, Mar. 12 The Farewell
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UPCOMING

Community Events

Want to get your event in Community Calendar? It's free! Contact Pat at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

100 Women Who Care Winter Meeting

When: Tuesday, Feb. 4
Where: The Dominion Hotel, Dining Room, Minden
Time: Social and Registration 6:30 p.m., meeting 7 p.m.
We are 100 Women Who Care Haliburton County. We meet three times a year for one hour to raise money for local charities. Since we began we have raised over \$50,000.

Ham and Scalloped Potato Dinner & Silent Auction

When: Saturday, Feb. 8, Social 5 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m.
Where: At the Minden Community Centre
Tickets \$15, 12 and Under \$8, 6 and Under Free
For Reservations call Wendy at 705-286-1225

Kinmount and District Educational Bursary, Annual Fundraiser Dinner/Auction

When: Saturday, Feb. 8, Doors Open 5 p.m. Dinner 6 p.m.
Where: Galway Hall
To reserve tickets, phone 705 488-3053
Tickets: \$20 each

Country Music Jamboree

When: Feb. 9 from 1 to 4:30 p.m., open mic
Where: Coboconk Legion
Hosted by the Country Hot Flashes with Scott Russell and Ron Lister. Food made available by the Legion Ladies Auxiliary at a reasonable cost. Admission: \$8.

Highlands Male Chorus: Winter Interlude

When: Sunday, Feb. 9 at 3 p.m.
Where: Haliburton United Church
General admission: adults - \$15, children under 16 - \$5, family - \$35. Tickets available at Cranberry Cottage in Haliburton and Pharmasave in Minden

Affordable Housing Development Incentives

Information Session for Kawartha Lakes and County of Haliburton
When: Feb. 11 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion, 719 Mountain St. Haliburton
For more information contact Elise Karklins ekarklins@kawarthalakes.ca. 705-324-9870 ext 3105

Enviro-Cafe: A Green New Deal for Oshawa?

When: Tuesday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Highland Hills U. C., Minden
What: Speaker, Russ Christianson will talk about how thousands of workers could be back to work building electric vehicles in a "Green New Deal for Oshawa."
Admission: by donation
For more info: Terry Moore at 705-306-9254

Sexual Health Clinic

When: Wednesday, Feb. 12, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
The clinic provides clients with confidential access to cervical screening, low-cost birth control, pregnancy testing and sexual health teaching. Testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections are also provided. For more information, locations or to make an appointment, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 1205.

Haliburton & District Lions Club Polar Bear Challenge

An event at the Haliburton Frost Festival
When: Saturday, Feb. 15
Registration at 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Event starts at 1 p.m.
Pledge forms available at Cranberry Cottage, Haliburton Foodland, West Guilford Shopping Centre, Todd's Independent or online at haliburtonlions.com. All proceeds to the SickKids' Garron Family Cancer Centre or the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation.

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Young curlers
Above, youth curlers of Haliburton Samuel McMahon, left, and teammate Finn Taylor-Bayly sweep during the annual Youth Curling Bonspiel on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Haliburton Curling Club. Hosted by Haliburton, the event showcased the talents of elementary school aged curlers from the Haliburton Curling Club, Minden Curling Club and the Bancroft Curling Club. The bonspiel, which was a point bonspiel format and included two eight-end games for all six co-ed teams, encouraged teamwork, sportsmanship and the joy for curling. Curlers were provided snacks, refreshments and lunch. / DARREN LUM Staff

Youth curlers warm up with stretches before the start of competition.

Curler Graham Backus looks back during the annual Youth Curling Bonspiel.

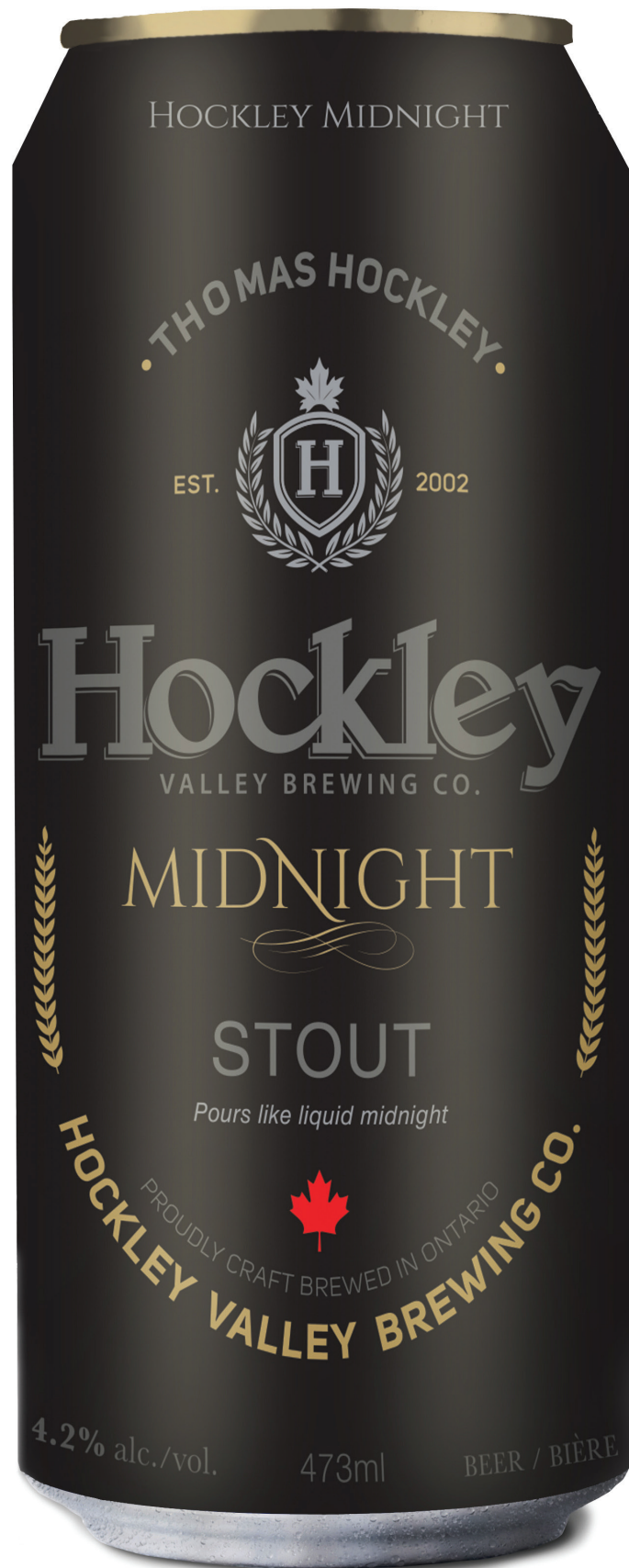
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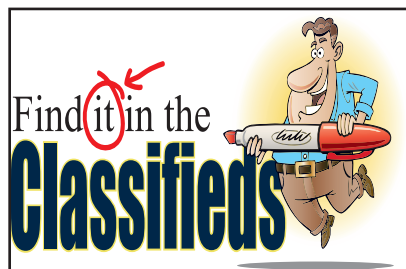
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**Employment Opportunity
Municipality of Dysart et al**

**GIS/PLANNING TECHNICIAN
Planning and Land Information Department**

The Municipality of Dysart et al is seeking a full time GIS/Planning Technician to join our team. A detailed job description is available at <https://www.dysartetel.ca/portfolio-view/contract-and-employment-opportunities/> for your review.

Please submit a resume and cover letter, no later than **noon on February 21st, 2020** to the attention of Cheryl Coulson, Clerk at ccoulson@dysartetel.ca.

We thank all of those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.

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500 ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENTION: NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY SERVICES



We are currently working on a new publication called County Life Magazine that will be distributed beginning in April 2020. This magazine will be celebrating the successes in the Haliburton Highlands and much more.

This magazine will also include a **Non-Profit Community Service Directory**. There will be no charge to have your non-profit service included in this directory. If you would like your service included in this listing, please email Pat Lewis at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

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560 THANK YOU

580 PERSONALS

600 FUNERAL SERVICES



Open Houses are Fun! Please Come to One!

Celebrate

Mary Pearsell's 90th Birthday:

DATE: Sunday, March 1, 2020

TIME: 1:00—4:00 pm

PLACE: Parklane Apartments Lounge
1 Victoria Street, Haliburton, ON

In lieu of gifts, please bring
a loonie as a contribution
to Mary's favourite charity.

See You There!

In Memory of the late Agnes Reiss

I would like to thank
my family, friends,
neighbours and community
for all of your support,
caring, kindness, phone calls,
food, cards, flowers and
donations during Mom's
sudden passing.

Your help and
encouragement was
amazing and I can
never thank-you enough.

A special thank-you to
Dr. Bottum and the GAIN
team for her care,
to Dwaine and the staff of
Haliburton Community
Funeral Home for their
guidance and great
luncheon and to
Randy Warburton for his
prayers and wonderful
service.

Agnes will be greatly missed
by all of her family & friends
but will always and forever be
fondly remembered.

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In Loving Memory of

Elva Averill Heard (nee Packard)

April 8th, 1923 to February 1st, 2020

Called home to be with her Lord in her 97th year.

Elva Averill Heard, wife of the late Lloyd George Heard (predeceased 1988), mother of Charles and the late Eileen (2016) of Eagle Lake and Dwight and Wendy of Coquitlam, British Columbia. Grandmother of Tracey and Rick, Robin and Roman, Ed and Brenda, Susan and Graham. Great Grandmother of Daniel,

Catherine, Mark, Alexis, Christopher and Jacob. Sister of the late Florence Wray and Lawrence Packard and beloved sister-in-law of Evelyn. Fondly remembered by her nieces and nephews.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Wednesday from 2:00 until 5:00 pm. A Service to Celebrate Elva's Life will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 1:00 pm. Reception to follow in the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the funeral home. Spring Interment at St. Peter's Anglican Church Cemetery, Maple Lake.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



Clayton Roberts

1957 - 2020

No words can express the great sadness we feel with the peaceful passing of Clayton on Monday, January 20, 2020. Loving partner to Carole and influential role model to Alexandria and Carlee. Cherished son of Chris and Fred, devoted father to Sue and Nicole and proud, loving granddad to Olan and Liam. Brother to Kim (Lee) and Fred (Allisson) and uncle to Melissa, Ash-lee, Johanna, Brigitte and Tom. Clayton was an adventurous, well-read individual with an unquenchable thirst for

knowledge and answers. He had a love of the mind, the heart, the outdoors and the open road.

A respected friend to many, he will be missed by all.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Messages of condolence will be received at leclaircremationcentre.ca



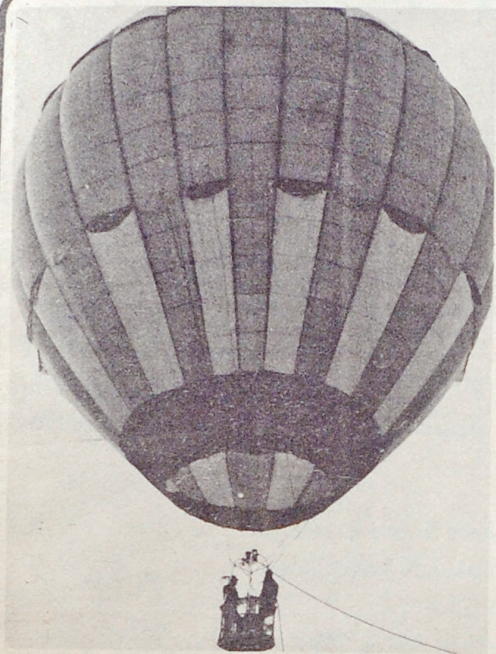
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Haliburton County Echo

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Second Section

Wednesday, February 18, 1976



One of the many new highlights of this year's Haliburton Winter Carnival which will be held this weekend - Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 20-21-22 will be the appearance of the Labatt's Blue Balloon which will feature a Hot Air Balloon Flight over Head Lake on Sunday afternoon at 1:00 p.m.

Haliburton Winter Carnival where all the action is

Haliburton is where the action will be this weekend and everything is set to go for the 1976 Haliburton Winter Carnival. Carnival chairman Ken Langdon of Black's Hardware and Furniture along with the rest of the members of the Rotary Club of Haliburton have been burning the midnight oil in an effort to come up with what we hope will be a weekend that will furnish plenty of fun and entertainment for old and young alike.

The big weekend will officially get underway at 3:00 p.m. on Friday with the Ice Sculpture display and judging and at the same time the 3 day Alcide Carpentier Memorial Pee Wee hockey tournament with 16 teams will swing into action at the arena. Friday night will also be packed with plenty of entertainment with the Torchlight parade from the High School to the arena at 9:00 p.m. followed by the Carnival Bonfire and Fireworks display at the Arena Fairgrounds at 9:30 p.m. The Teen Snowball Dance on this evening along with the crowning of the Carnival Queen will take place at the High School and there is also a dance at the Legion Hall with food and refreshments.

Saturday will be another fun packed day being highlighted by the Carnival Parade which begins at the Arena Grounds at 2:00 p.m. Also on Saturday plan to attend the Pancake Breakfast, Carnival Bonspiel and Pee Wee Tournament, Timed Drag Races, Helicopter Rides, Carnival Luncheon and Buffet at the Anglican Church, Carnival Bake Sale at Curry Motors Showroom, Sky Diving, Carnival Feast, Junior D Hockey game, and the Carnival Ball at the Legion Hall with George "Pappy" Ryan and his Ryanstone Band. H.H.S.S. Aeronautic Club Rocket Display at 12:30 p.m.

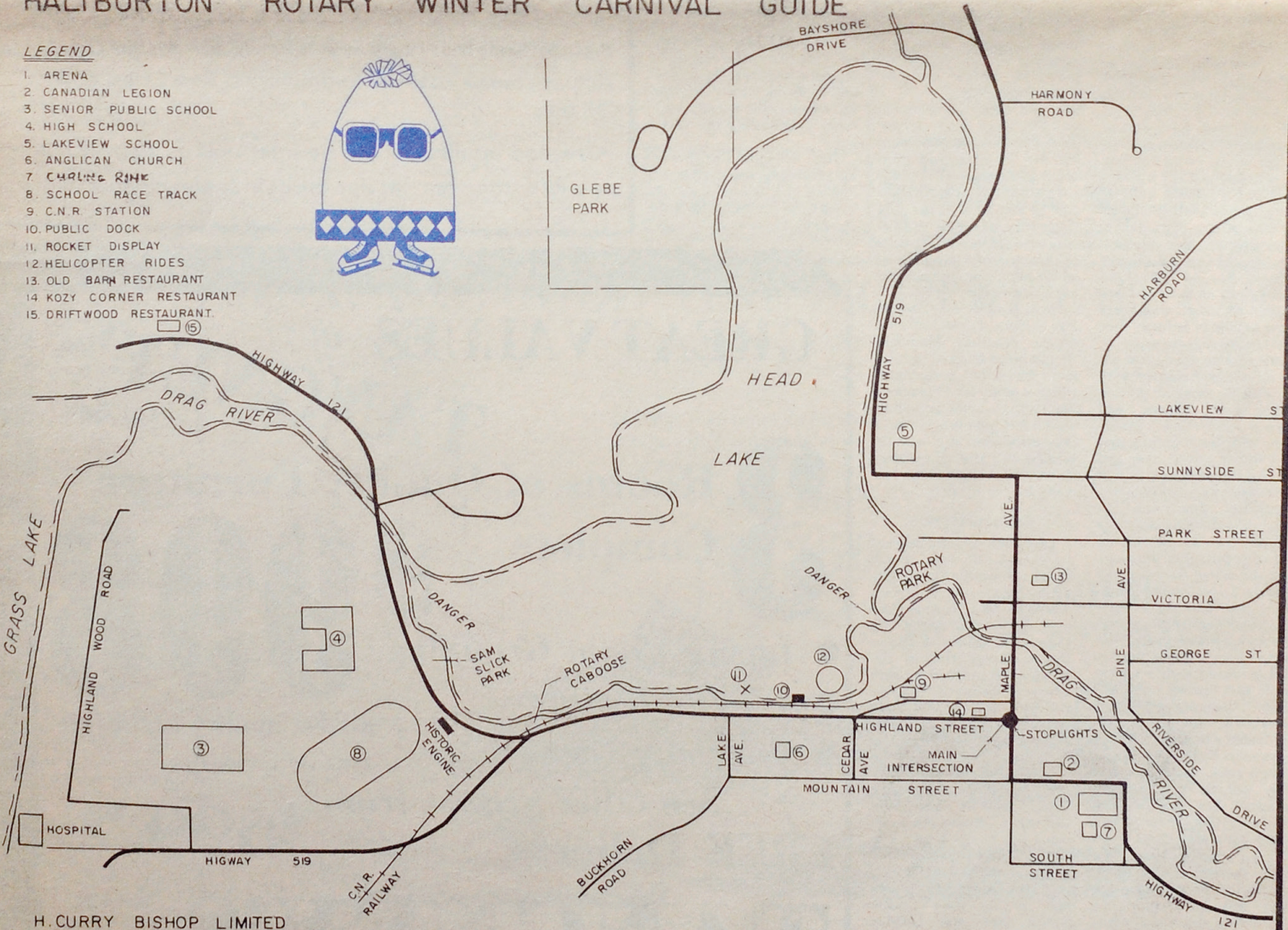
Now take a look at what's on tap for Sunday, Timed Snowmobile Rally, Free Horse Drawn Sleigh Rides, Labatt's Blue Balloon, Hot Air Balloon Flight, Helicopter Rides, Oval Races, Sky Diving.

We say welcome to Haliburton this weekend, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 20-21-22 and may your visit be one that will long be remembered.

HALIBURTON ROTARY WINTER CARNIVAL GUIDE

LEGEND

1. ARENA
2. CANADIAN LEGION
3. SENIOR PUBLIC SCHOOL
4. HIGH SCHOOL
5. LAKEVIEW SCHOOL
6. ANGLICAN CHURCH
7. CHURCH RINK
8. SCHOOL RACE TRACK
9. C.N.R. STATION
10. PUBLIC DOCK
11. ROCKET DISPLAY
12. HELICOPTER RIDES
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Grass Lake

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\$1,050,000



Colbourne Lake

Enjoy being close to nature in a quiet, private and peaceful setting. 4 BR, 2 bath log home/cottage. 25 acres of mature trees. Stunning open concept living. Engineered hardwood flooring, granite countertops and walk-out to covered wraparound deck. Heated workshop with loft.

\$999,000



WENONA LAKE \$683,000

Looking for a quiet, calm and peaceful four season cottage or waterfront home? Look no further. This 3 BR, 3 bath immaculate cottage sits on a private lot. Large open concept living, excellent for hosting family gatherings. 125ft of frtg with stunning western views.



HALIBURTON LAKE \$639,000

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NEW LISTING Eric Potter Rd \$46,500 2.82AC

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